

# LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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**DATE:** NOVEMBER 12, 2002  
**FROM:** JAMES M. RODDY, Executive Officer  
**TO:** LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4:** LAFCO #2903--Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the City of Rancho Cucamonga; and,  
**Agenda Item #5:** LAFCO #2904--Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District

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## **INITIATING AGENCY:**

Local Agency Formation Commission

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Determine that the service reviews and sphere of influence studies for the City of Rancho Cucamonga (LAFCO #2903) and the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District (LAFCO #2904) are both statutorily exempt from environmental review, and direct the Clerk to file Notices of Exemption within five days;
2. Make findings related to service reviews required by Government Code Section 56430 (service review factors), and determine that the spheres of influence for the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District should not be changed; and,
3. Adopt LAFCO Resolution #2754 (City of Rancho Cucamonga) and LAFCO Resolution #2755 (Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District) setting forth the Commission's findings and determinations on these issues.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

These proposals were initiated by the Local Agency Formation Commission in response to new state mandates requiring service reviews and sphere of

influence updates for all cities and special districts on a rotating five-year schedule. LAFCO #2903 is a routine, non-controversial service review and sphere of influence update for the City of Rancho Cucamonga, and the City envisions no sphere of influence changes within the next five years. LAFCO #2904 involves a service review and sphere of influence study for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District, which is a subsidiary district of the City. The District is governed by the Rancho Cucamonga City Council, whose members serve as the ex officio board of directors of the Fire District.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga was incorporated in 1977 (when it had a population of approximately 35,000), and it has had two sphere of influence amendments over the last twenty-five years. One involved a land-swap with the City of Ontario adjoining a flood control channel to make the two cities' boundaries consistent with the channel; the other involved removal of territory from the Rancho Cucamonga sphere in the "Hunter's Ridge" area, which was subsequently annexed to the City of Fontana.

City staff emphasized in discussions with LAFCO staff it did not envision any substantial sphere of influence proposals within the next five years. The only possible exception to that position may emerge if the Cities of Rancho Cucamonga and Upland agree on a possible detachment from Rancho Cucamonga and annexation to Upland. This boundary reorganization involves very minor acreage that might be included within a larger development known as "The Colonies" within the City of Upland, and would be intended to align the cities' boundaries along a flood control channel.

The potential for the boundary reorganization has been recently discussed by the two city councils, but an interagency agreement has not been reached, and there is uncertainty as to whether it will ever be reached. Accordingly, City staff suggested that the possible boundary reorganization should be omitted from this sphere of influence update, with the understanding that if an interagency accord is eventually reached, then a very minor sphere of influence change will be initiated to accommodate the shift in the two Cities' spheres.

On this basis, the City's responses to the factors of consideration for a service review are quite brief, and address only specific factors that City staff felt a need to address. The balance of the statutory factors are deemed to be not relevant to the Commission's service review and sphere of influence "update" responsibilities mandated by state law.

It should also be noted that the City's brief response is applicable to the service review/sphere update for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District. The District's service boundaries extend northerly of City boundaries to the National Forest boundary, and are coterminous with the District's existing boundaries. In essence, the Fire District functions as a city department, although it is technically a separate legal entity requiring separate hearing notices, budgets, etc.. In the case of the Fire District, as in the case of the City of Rancho Cucamonga, no sphere of influence changes are anticipated during the next five years, and as a subsidiary district, none of the service review factors are notable or particularly relevant to this Commission hearing. The reader is referred to the attached response from the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the draft LAFCO resolutions for further information relative to this review.

Based on the findings outlined above, staff recommends that the Commission uphold and affirm the existing spheres of influence for the City of Rancho Cucamonga and the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District.

Attachments:

1. Response from the City of Rancho Cucamonga
2. Draft Resolution #2754 (City of Rancho Cucamonga)
3. Draft Resolution #2755 (Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District)
4. Responses from Tom Dodson and Associates